

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3302

June 24, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chair Pallone, Ranking Member Rodgers, Chair Neal, and Ranking Member Brady,

We write to urge you to include provisions to facilitate and expedite new transmission line planning and deployment in upcoming infrastructure legislation. It is essential that new transmission lines are incorporated into the existing system to fully realize grid modernization, resiliency, and clean energy goals. We applaud the 10-year extension of the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and the establishment of a Grid Deployment Authority in the American Jobs Plan to incentivize and facilitate transmission projects and urge swift Congressional action. As the nation accelerates its investment in clean energy, the federal government must take the necessary steps to develop and implement the regulatory and transmission infrastructure needed to support it.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave our national energy infrastructure a C- in its 2021 Infrastructure Report Card. ASCE reports that most of the grid is past its 50-year life expectancy. As a result, the U.S. experiences more blackouts than any other developed country. The Department of Energy has reported that power outages cost the U.S. up to \$70 billion annually.

Incorporating renewable energy sources to diversify our energy portfolio will increase grid and climate resiliency. However, as solar and wind energy become increasingly commercially viable, we face the growing logistical hurdle of transmitting electricity generated in decentralized locations to end users. Interstate and interregional transmission planning, siting, and permitting

processes are regulated by a patchwork of state and federal policies and varying authorities—the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has limited authority over siting while permits are issued by each state, for instance—that interfere with the deployment of transmission lines at the necessary pace and scale. The process of adding a transmission line can take up to a decade, whereas wind farms can be constructed in under a year. This mismatched time frame can inhibit the growth of the renewable energy industry. The offshore wind industry alone is projected to invest nearly \$140 billion in the U.S. by 2035 and spur job creation across manufacturing, construction, and other industries. We cannot afford to risk this opportunity for large-scale climate change mitigation and immense regional and national economic growth.

It is imperative that Grid Deployment Authority authorization and funding be included in the final infrastructure package along with additional provisions to expedite and facilitate transmission line planning and deployment. This much-needed legislation would be instrumental in setting us on the path to a more resilient, efficient, and affordable energy system.

We look forward to continuing to work with House Leadership and the Biden administration to bring our 20th century grid system into the 21st century. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Very truly yours,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



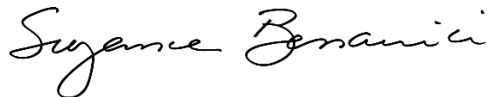
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Haley Stevens
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Peter Welch
Member of Congress